

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 17-31 are pending. Claims 17-31 are allowed.

The applicants appreciate the indication that claims 4-10 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claims 4-10 are not being placed in independent form because the applicants submit that claim 1, from which claims 4-10 are dependent, is also directed to allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,754,107 to Khouri et al. ("Khouri").

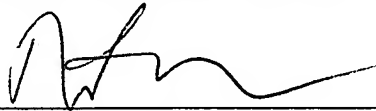
Khouri does not anticipate claims 1-3 because Khouri is not prior art. Khouri was issued on June 22, 2004 based on U.S. Patent Application No. 10/331,185, which was filed on December 27, 2002, and claimed priority from European Patent Application No. 01830808 filed on December 27, 2001. Being filed herewith is a supplemental application data sheet claiming priority from the Khouri U.S. application 10/331,185 and from the Khouri European application 01830808. Such priority claims are permitted because Osama Khouri is a named inventor of the present application as well as the Khouri U.S. application 10/331,185, and both the present application and the Khouri U.S. application 10/331,185 were pending from February 18, 2004 to June 22, 2004. As a result, Khouri is not prior art under Section 102(e) because Khouri was not based on an application filed before the date of invention of the present application. Accordingly, claims 1-3 are not anticipated by Khouri.

Application No. 10/782,737
Reply to Office Action dated February 24, 2005

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



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RXI:lmf

Enclosure:

Postcard

Supplemental ADS

Petition to Accept Unintentional Delay of Priority Claim Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.55

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